

Hello, my name is Victor Montoya; I'm a first generation Mexican American. I was born in Los Angeles, CA but I grew up in Pasco, Washington. I moved to Montana in 2008 to marry my beautiful wife.

Currently, I'm 3rd year Psychology student at Salish Kootenai College.

In 1991, because of poor choices as a young man, I dropped out of college after my first year of school. Up until 2006, I had been a functional addict for most of my adult life and I genuinely thought I would never earn a college degree.

However, in 2010 my wife Gena encouraged me to pursue my long lost dream, so I made the decision to enroll at Salish Kootenai College.

The SKC family is composed of high quality instructors, a caring faculty, and a diverse student population. In essence, SKC has become my second home.

I'm extremely fortunate to have another opportunity to pursue a college education, and SKC is a big part of that effort. Attending SKC has made tuition affordable, classroom size is at a premium, and I'm able to spend one on one time with my instructors and my advisor.

For the past two years; I have work diligently to earn my associate's degree, become a father for the first time, volunteered countless hours to my church, sobriety program, and my community, all while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. I don't think I could have done this at a different institution.

We need the Montana State beneficiary funding of \$3,024 per student.

This bill is a matter of fairness. We are Montana residents just like students attending state colleges. The legislature should help us with our college education, like it helps Montana resident students attending state colleges.

VOTING IN FAVOR OF NON-BENEFICIARY FUNDING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Thank you for your time, Go Bison!